CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM UPDATE:
DECEMBER 2016

"All children deserve to live with a committed, nurturing and permanent family that prepares youth for a successful transition into adulthood."

The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) draws together a series of existing and new reforms to our child welfare services program and was designed based on the understanding that children who must live apart from their biological parents do best when they are cared for in committed and nurturing family homes.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND GUIDANCE TO STAKEHOLDERS

The Child and Family Teaming Process

CDSS's Office of Systems Integration is currently working on programming for the tracking of CFTs under the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) 8.1, anticipated to be released in the fall of 2017. Until its completion, CFTs will be tracked using claims data.

Two Regional CFT Trainings for Trainers (TFT) have been conducted in Sacramento and Anaheim. Two TFTs are scheduled in January in the Bay Area and the Central Region. Opportunities for more training in other regions are in the process of being scheduled.

Assessment Tools

- TOP is being piloted in five counties, including Los Angeles (Child Welfare and Probation), Tuolumne (CW), San Diego (CS), Fresno (CW), and Merced (Mental Health). CANS is being piloted in three counties, including San Francisco, Shasta, and Humboldt.
- A four-month qualitative evaluation is scheduled to begin in February and will be completed by the end of May. A meeting between all eight pilot counties will be scheduled in January to inform them of the evaluation process and deliverables.

Level of Care Protocol

- FCARB is continuing to work with Stakeholders in developing a Level of Care (LOC) Protocol Tool designed to assist rate determinations and placement decisions.
- An All County Letter (ACL) will be released in conjunction with the implementation of the Home-Based Foster Care Phase II for rate changes is anticipated in the spring 2017.
- A webinar was held on November 18, 2016 to review the final LOC Protocol Tool with the larger work group. The next steps will include another webinar regarding the LOC Protocol tool followed by piloting the tool throughout several counties who have volunteered to participate in this effort.
- Those interested in participating in the webinar should contact daisy.braxton@dss.ca.gov.

Mental Health

- DHCS participated in all of the CDSS arranged STRTP orientations held during the fall of 2016.
- Interim Med-Cal Program Approval are anticipated to be released by the end of the year.
- DHCS has released MHSUDS 16-061 clarifying the medical necessity determination criteria for children seeking Specialty Mental Health Services.
- DHCS has begun scheduling Med-Cal 101 regional meeting with the first occurring on December 16th.

Resource Family Approval

- Version 4 of the Written Directives and Version 2.1 of the Interim Licensing Standards will be released in January.
- An ACL and a PIN regarding the conversion process for existing families to RFA will be released in Jan/Feb.
- Staff is working on data entry instructions for statewide implementation.
- Information will be provided to all counties on the process for surveying families to assess their satisfaction with the RFA process.
- We are developing ACLs/ACINs to provide additional information about the Due Process, LAARS system and background checks related to RFA.
- All counties submitted their RFA implementation plans in September.
- We have participated in monthly regional meetings across the State to prepare for implementation as well as hosted a couple of RFA specific meetings.
- Six months ago, we concluded our first round of statutorily required annual reviews of our Cohort 1 counties and have now begun our next round of annual reviews which will include Cohort 1 and 2 counties. Thus far, we have completed 3 and have 3 more scheduled between January and February.

SYSTEM CHANGES

A status update on the automation changes to the Child Welfare Services Case Management System and licensing systems needed to implement CCR (including the automation of foster care payments and the automated implementation of the selected standard assessment tool).

System	Current Status	Next Step	Next Step Due Date	Completion
CWS/CMS	Facility Types for RFA and STRTPs now available in system	Release 8.1 requirements for RFA/CCR with IBM for sizing. After sized requirements will be prioritized.	Feb 2017	Nov 2017
LIS/FAS	CCR related changes go live 12/17/16	Complete outstanding items that were not priority for Jan 1.	Feb 2017	
FFA web app		Changes deployed 12/29/16	12/29/16	
SAWS	Currently working on updating for new foster care rate structure	Implementation of Phase I is on schedule. Phase II development is will begin later this month.	Nov 2016	2017
LAARS	A new database is being added within LAARS to track NOAs for RFA. Security improvements are being made to LAARS which includes individual logon IDs and passwords	The database has been coded and testing will occur. Policies and procedures around access, privileges and authority are being developed and will be distributed via ACIN	Jan 2017	Feb 2017
Administrator Certification System	Developed and tested with no problems to report.			Dec 1, 2016

TRANSITION OF PROVIDERS TO THE CCR SERVICE MODEL

Update on the Transition of Providers to the CCR Service Model. With a focus on changes over time, status updates on the transition of providers to the CCR service mode. When available, county breakouts will be attached.

Provider Type	Applications for Licensure	Licenses Issued	Accreditation Status	Not maintaining License/capacity
STRTP	0	0		N/A
Group Home				
Foster Family Agency				
Temporary Shelter Care Facility	0	0	N/A	N/A

Group home license extensions

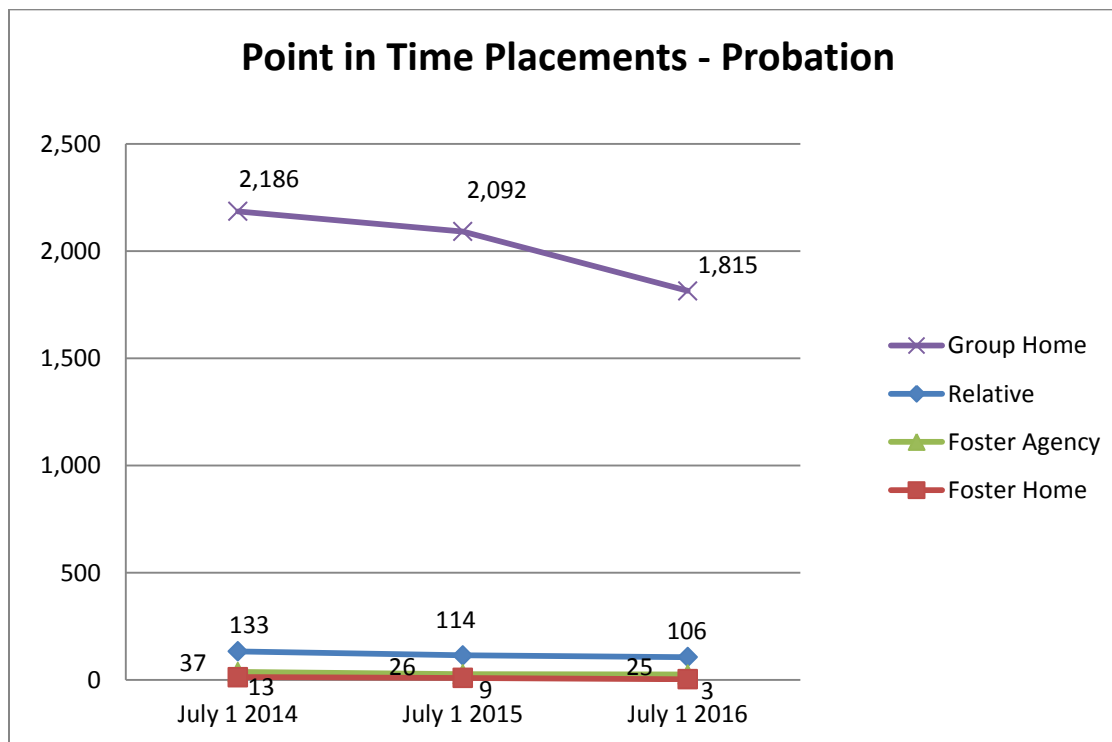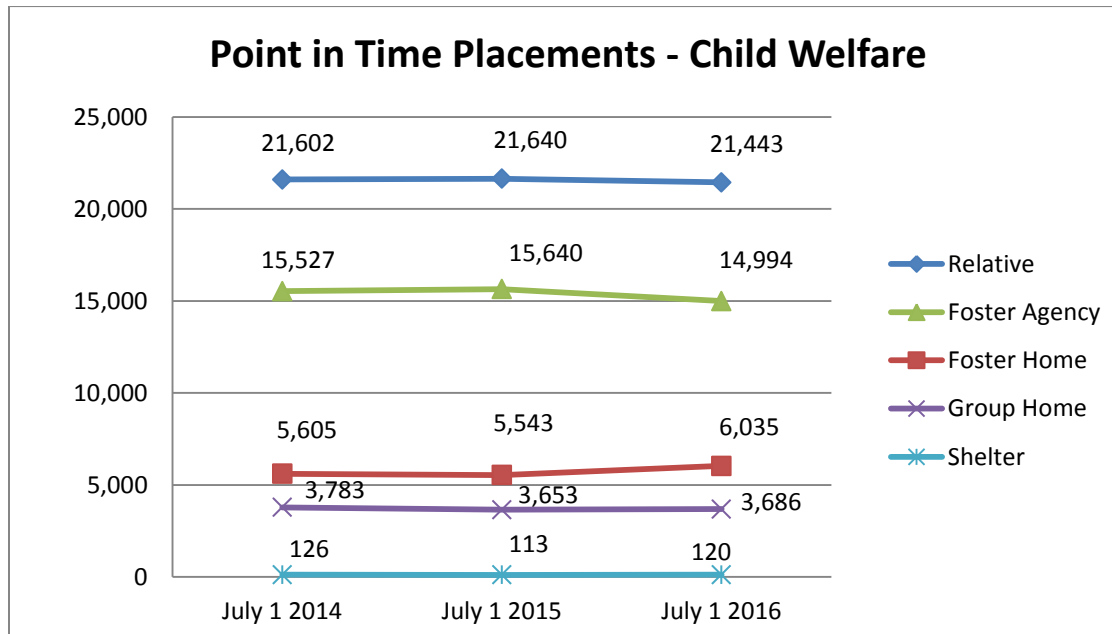| Agency Requested	Extensions requested	Capacity	Extensions NOT approved	Capacity	Not Extending	Capacity	Closed	Primary Reasons for Extension
Child Welfare	212	3,444	25	196				Transition
Probation	93	2,422	3	18				Transition
Total number of programs	315	5,866	28	214	6	46	5	

CAPACITY TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Implementation Preparation

CDSS and DHCS have committed to work together to develop a "road map" for accessing needed Specialty Mental Health Services through county Mental Health Plans, and non-specialty services through Managed Care Plans or the Fee For Service system by early December that clarifies the system in words child welfare and probation partners systems understand. Additionally, DHCS has released for stakeholder feedback the Mental Health Program Approval Protocol which incorporates the Medi-Cal certification for Specialty Mental Health Services. STRTPs will have 12 months following licensure to complete the Mental Health Program Approval.

In future to include: Access standards that apply to mental health services for children, including children in STRTPs, FFAs, TFCs homes, and Resource Families, and including what types of services required to be offered by county mental health and managed care plans and the standards for timely access.
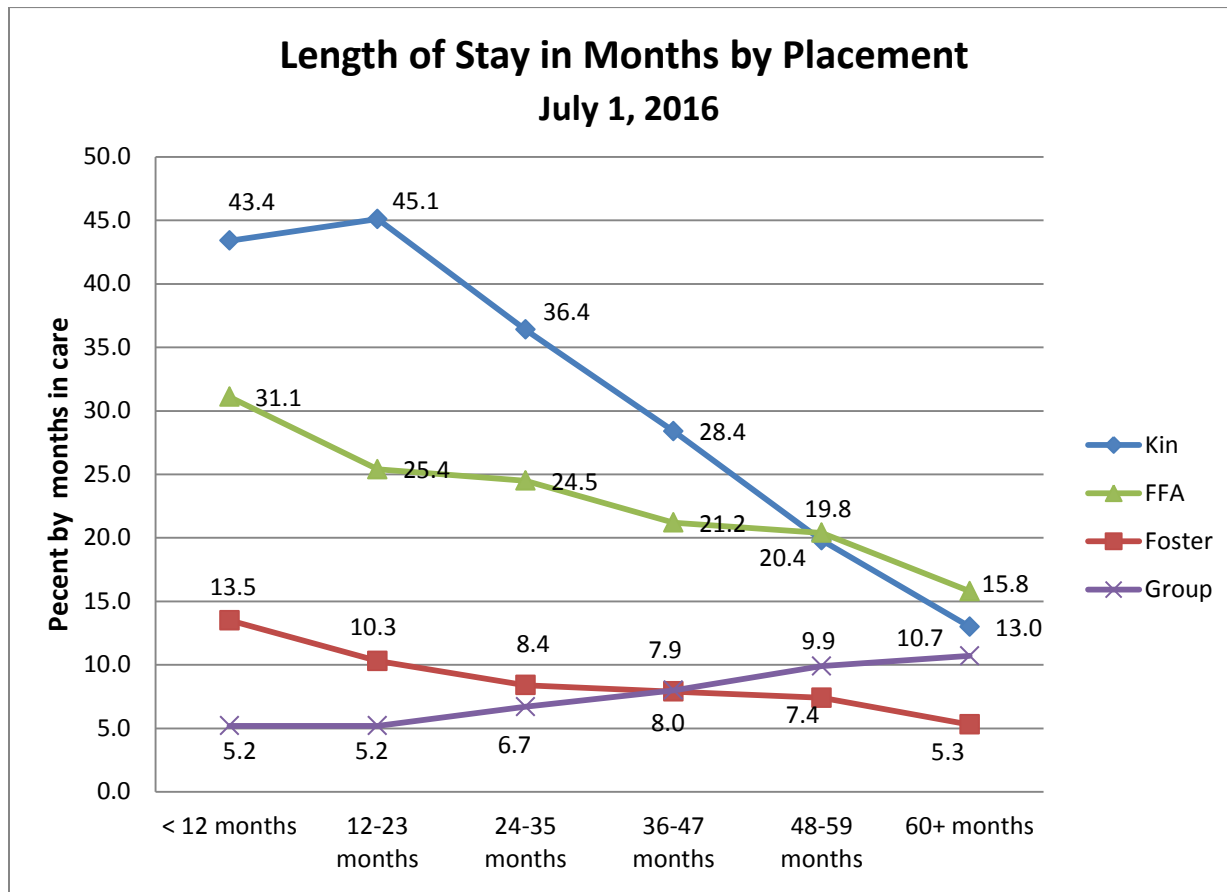
CHILD OUTCOMES

The following charts show the numbers of children, ages 0-21, in the identified placement type on July 1 2014 and 2015. Not all placements types are included therefore this does not total the foster care population. As CCR is targeting the reduction of congregate placements and movements to lower levels of care, those placements were included. These charts are to establish placement baseline data.

Point in Time Placements - Child Welfare

Placement Type	July 1 2014	July 1 2015	July 1 2016
Relative	21,602	21,640	21,443
Foster Agency	15,527	15,640	14,994
Foster Home	5,605	5,543	6,035
Group Home	3,783	3,653	3,686
Shelter	126	113	120

Point in Time Placements - Probation

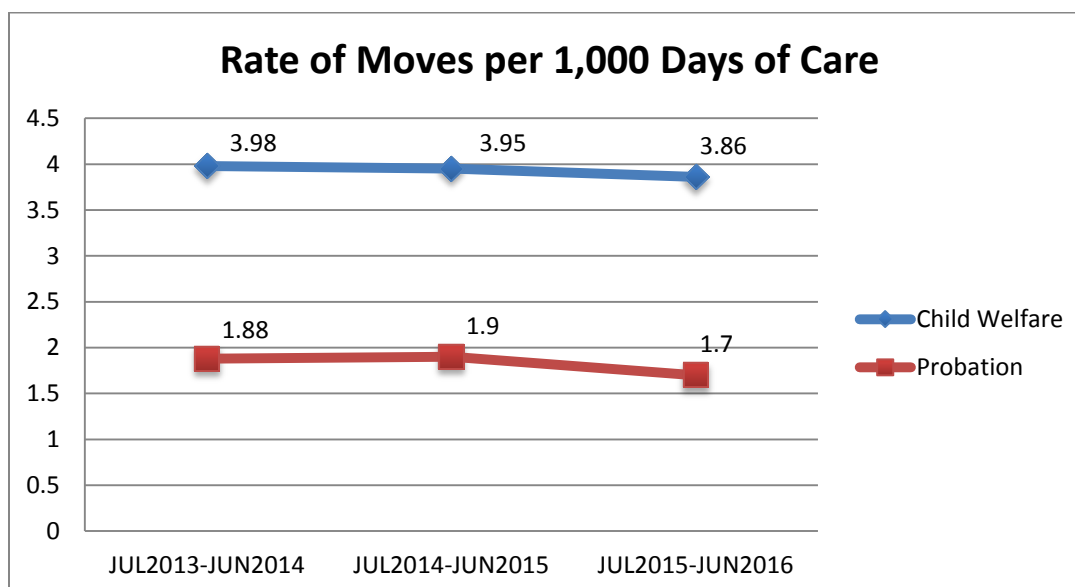| Placement Type	July 1 2014	July 1 2015	July 1 2016
Group Home	2,186	2,092	1,815
Relative	133	114	106
Foster Agency	37	26	25
Foster Home	13	9	3

There was a 16% decrease in the probation point in time population from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016. The child welfare population remained stable between those data points.

The following chart shows by placement type the length of stay for children in care. The percent represents the proportion of children who have been in care for the corresponding length of time in each placement. The percentages will not add up to 100% as all placement types are not included. There is sharp and steady decrease in length of stay for children in relative placements as these children are likely to achieve permanency at faster rates than children in other placements.

Length of Stay in Months by Placement
July 1, 2016

Placement	< 12 months	12-23 months	24-35 months	36-47 months	48-59 months	60+ months
Kin	43.4	45.1	36.4	28.4	19.8	13.0
FFA	31.1	25.4	24.5	21.2	20.4	15.8
Foster	13.5	10.3	8.4	8.0	7.4	5.3
Group	5.2	5.2	6.7	7.9	9.9	10.7

The following chart shows the average number of placement moves. This is derived by the total number of days in care for all children during the time frame divided by the total number of moves.

Rate of Moves per 1,000 Days of Care

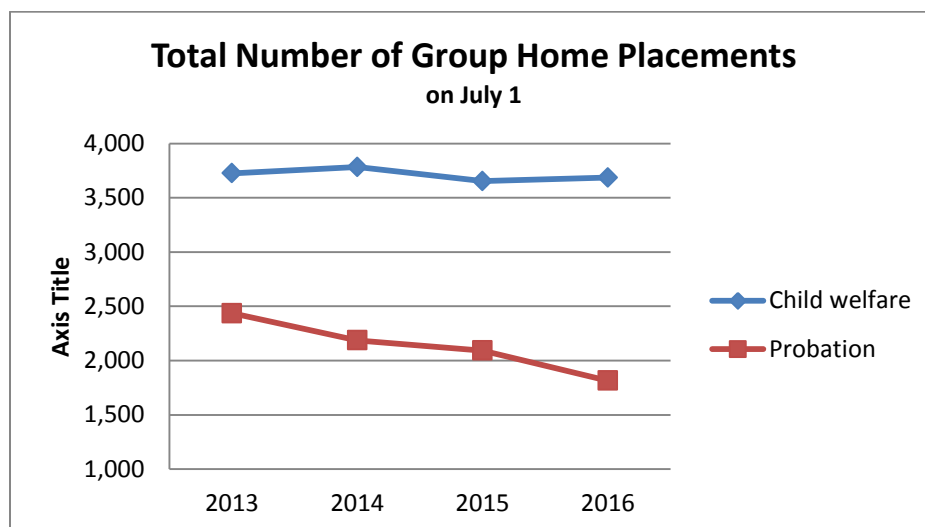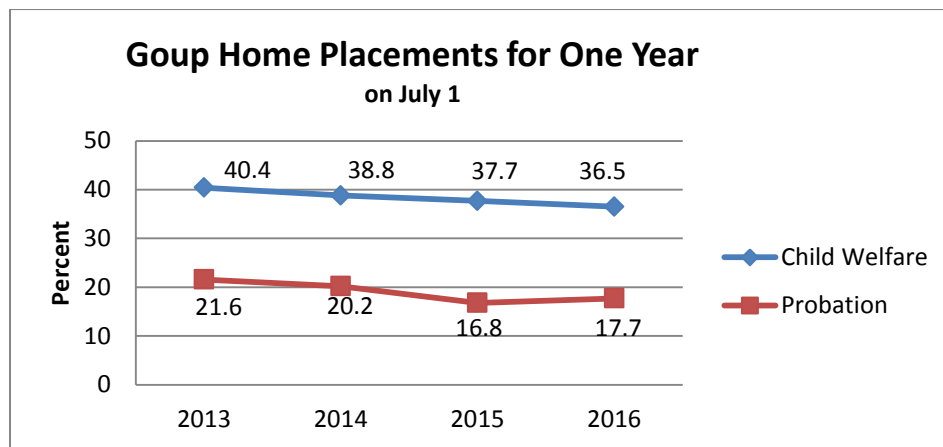|	JUL2013-JUN2014	JUL2014-JUN2015	JUL2015-JUN2016
Child Welfare	3.98	3.95	3.86
Probation	1.88	1.9	1.7

The following charts show point in time data for group home placements by Rate Classification Level (RCL), stratified by age and race. The second chart shows placements for children who have been in a group home for 365 of the last 400 days.

Point in Time: October 1, 2016											
Agency	RCL	Age			Total	Race					
		0-10	11-15	16-17		Asian/PI	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	Unknown
Child Welfare	5-9	13	92	122	**227**	6	64	91	2	63	1
	10-11	69	388	437	**894**	12	288	354	9	226	5
	12-14	225	958	762	**1,945**	40	657	733	17	495	3
CW Totals		**307**	**1,438**	**1,321**	**3,066**	**58**	**1,009**	**1,178**	**28**	**784**	**9**
Probation	5-9	0	5	8	**13**	0	2	3	0	8	0
	10-11	0	126	332	**458**	5	111	240	6	90	6
	12-14	0	265	571	**836**	17	210	442	6	153	8
Prob. Totals		**0**	**396**	**911**	**1,307**	**22**	**323**	**685**	**12**	**251**	**14**
Totals		**307**	**1,834**	**2,232**	**4,373**	**80**	**1,332**	**1,863**	**40**	**1,035**	**23**

RCL 12-14 Greater Than One Year, Point in Time: October 1, 2016										
Agency	Age			Total	Race					
	0-10	11-15	16-17		Asian/PI	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	Unknown
Child Welfare	45	343	278	**666**	17	240	286	10	230	1
Probation	0	34	84	**118**						
Totals	**45**	**377**	**362**	**784**	**17**	**240**	**286**	**10**	**230**	**1**

This following chart shows the percent of youth placed in a group home on July 1 who had been in a group home for one year by child welfare and probation.   Both agencies show a four percent decline over time in placements longer than one year. However, the other chart shows in Child Welfare the total number of placements in group homes (regardless of length of time) remained stable from 2013 to 2016 in contrast to Probation placements which declined by 25%.

Goup Home Placements for One Year
on July 1

Year	Child Welfare	Probation
2013	40.4	21.6
2014	38.8	20.2
2015	37.7	16.8
2016	36.5	17.7

Total Number of Group Home Placements
on July 1

COUNTY COSTS/SAVINGS

Status updates on county allocations of state and federal funding for all other local assistance components of the CCR spending package. Data reporting under this paragraph may occur quarterly rather than monthly.

Allocations

Home Based Family Care (HBFC) Rates

The HBFC rates use a new structure that provides foster care rates based on a four-tier LOC system and includes a STRTP rate for those children who are not ready to move down from congregate care or need higher level care for a short time and Treatment Foster Care (TFC) rate. The HBFC structure includes a services only rate for youth placed with relatives or in foster family homes and reflects an increase to the social work portion of the rate. The LOC rate will be determined using a standardized assessment tool.

- $35.7 million total funds (TF), $32.9 million GF budgeted for FY 2016-17.
- Working on obtaining federal approval for Foster Family Home (FFH) and STRTP Social Workers to time study and draw down Title IV-E funding to maximize federal funds.
- Work continues on revising CA 800 to track GH placement movements

Social Worker Rate Increase

This provided a 15 percent increase to the foster family agency social worker rate. The increase raised the per case per month amount provided to foster family agencies from $296 to $340 effective July 1, 2015.

- $3.8 million GF in FY 2016-17 (for six months of cost).
- Issued ACL No 15-58 dated July 2, 2015 and ACL No. 15-58E dated July 20, 2015 to provide information on the 15 percent social worker rate increase.

Accreditation

All STRTPs and foster family agencies will be required attain accreditation from a national accreditation body selected by CDSS. These agencies will get reimbursed for 50 percent of the accreditation costs in FY 2016-17.

- $2.8 million TF, $1.4 million GF in FY 2016-17.
- Issued ACL No. 16-05, dated January 21, 2016.
- Letter with additional instructions being drafted.
- Reimbursement process and Budget Bill Language (BBL) to give authority to pay FFA and GH direct.
- Accrediting bodies chosen

Outcomes and Accountability

Performance outcomes and a dashboard will be developed to measure performance of STRTPs and foster family agencies and inform AB 403 reporting requirements related to performance measures, out-of-home client satisfaction surveys.

- $2.5 million TF, $1.7 million GF in FY 2016-17.
- Status on the creation of a provider performance outcomes dashboard including:

  - Anticipated release date of the public dashboard.
  - Individual measures, including any measures related to STRTPs and FFAs.
  - Expected date of publication for adding measures to dashboard.

Automation

These are costs associated with the systems changes that will be required in CWS/CMS, C-IV, CalWIN and LRS to incorporate the new rate structure and to track caseload movement.

- $5.5 million TF, $2.25 million GF in FY 2016-17.
- High level descriptions of:
  - Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) system changes.
  - CalWIN, Consortium-IV (C-IV), and LRS consortia payment systems changes and meetings.
  - Community Care Licensing (CCL) system changes.
  - System change request.

Child and Family Teams

Placing agencies will utilize child and family teams for all out-of-home placements for participatory case planning purposes and to continuously assess a foster child's needs.

- $27.4 million TF, $22.0 million GF in FY 2016-17.
- ACL 16-84 has been released which provides requirements for CFTs.
- Program decisions on when initial meeting to take place, frequency and composition of team.
- Allocation letters are being drafted.
- MH participation, letters/activities

Second Level Administrative Review

Second level administrative reviews will be required at intervals no greater than six months and require county deputy director approval for all cases exceeding this time period.

- $29,000 TF, $23,000 GF in FY 2016-17.
- Status Update

Case Planning Assessment

Placing agencies will use IT tools with common domains and unlimited users and clients. These funds are to pay for the tool's licensing fees.

- $3.5 million TF, $2.4 million GF for FY 2016-17.
- Instructions to counties to be drafted.
- Status of subscription fee.

Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support

This will allow counties to recruit new foster family homes and relative placements so there are enough placement resources available for children moving out of group homes into lower level of care and to provide the services and supports needed to keep the children in the placements.

- $54.7 million TF, $43.3 million GF in FY 2016-17.
- Status update on the recruitment and retention of new resource families.
- Data reporting.
- ACL No. 16-52, dated July 14, 2016.
- CFL No. 15/16-37 and CFL No. 15/63-37E, dated December 30, 2015 and February 19, 2016 respectively. CFL No. 15/16, dated February 16, 2016 (for Probation claiming).
- Allocation issued for FY 2015-16 in CFL No. 15/16-58.
- The most utilized county activities funded with FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 recruitment and retention funding.
- Outcome measures to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of various recruitment and retention activities at the county level.
- Number of resource families recruited and retained with the funding and each county's net changes in placements.

Resource Family Approval

The RFA will take the place of the current licensing process and provide a streamlined approval process that will avoid duplicate processes and procedures.

- $12.0 million TF, $8.0 million GF in FY 2016-17.
- ACL No. 16-58, dated July 11, 2016.
- ACL No. 16-10, dated February 17, 2016.
- CFL No. 15/16-43, dated February 3, 2016.
- Allocation issued in ACL No. 16-58 dated July 11, 2016.

Training

County social workers and probation officers will require training on case planning assessment tools and CCR implementation.

- $4.6 million TF, $1.6 million GF in FY 2016-17.
- Description and update on training for county social workers and probation officers.

CDSS State Operations

- $5.0 million TF, $2.5 million GF in FY 2016-17.

Tracking County Savings and Costs for Reconciliation

The CCR provides counties with an up-front investment of funds to implement the various program components. By moving cases from congregate care to lower level foster family Agency, foster family homes or relative homes, it is assumed there will be a savings. The savings will be used to offset the up-front investment of GF in the CCR program. Once this movement occurs, reconciliation will need to be done to determine if there were savings and if so, how much as it will be used to reduce the amount of ongoing investment funds.

- A draft methodology has been developed. Proposes to use pre CCR baseline expenditures compared to post CCR expenditures.
- The methodology is being discussed with CWDA and county stakeholders who have provided input. Talks are ongoing as we work through how to gather the data needed to do the calculations.
- Revised CA 237 Caseload Movement Report drafted and out for stakeholder input.
- Working with C-IV, CalWIN and LRS consortia to determine how automated systems can be modified to track certain costs and to determine cost for modifications.
- Tracking Mental Health (MH) costs.

GUIDANCE TO THE COUNTIES

No new ACLs related specfically to CCR have been released in the last month, but several are still being written including, but not limited to: information about the changes in AB 1997, conversion of existing licensed homes to RFA, Interagency Placing Committee and statewide trainings.

TRAINING

An ACIN is in development that will cover all the trainings planned for the next which include:
➢ There will be 12 statewide 4 day overview trainings for RFA
➢ Foster Parent Training continues to be offered through the Community Colleges with the Foster Kinship Care Education (FKCE)
➢ Online training will be offered through the Foster Parent College. This will provide unlimited 24 hour access to training for all families and will work in conjunction with FKCE.
➢ Probation Officer training for CCR related changes. There are 25 trainings scheduled
➢ National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative will provide online resources to Resource Families who have children with mental health needs.
➢ Training related to the TOPS and CAANS pilots.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CCR related meetings and presentations scheduled for the next two months. For a complete list of upcoming meetings, please visit the CCR website.

Date	Location/Type of Presentation	Audience	Host	Overview
12/15/16 1:30-4:00	Meeting Youth Survey	Stakeholders	CDSS	RFA Youth Satisfaction Survey Workgroup INVITATION ONLY
1/10/17 9:30-2:30	Meeting	Stakeholders	CDSS	Probation Workgroup INVITATION ONLY
1/26/17 11:00-3:00	Meeting CBHDA	Committee Members	CBHDA	Children's System of Care Committee INVITATION ONLY
1/26/17 3:00-5:00	Meeting CBHDA	CDSS, DHCS, CWDA, CPOC, CBHDA, CSAC, CDE	CDSS/ CBHDA	State/County Implementation Team INVITATION ONLY
2/7/17	Meeting	Stakeholders	CDSS	High Needs Youth, Learning Exchange INVITATION ONLY
2/15/17 9:30-3:30	Meeting	State/County Stakeholders	CDSS	Probation Workgroup INVITATION ONLY
2/16/17 11:00-3:00	Meeting CBHDA	Committee Members	CBHDA	Children's System of Care Committee INVITATION ONLY
2/16/17 3:00-5:00	Meeting CBHDA	CDSS, DHCS, CWDA, CPOC, CBHDA, CSAC, CDE	CDSS/ CBHDA	State/County Implementation Team INVITATION ONLY